

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish over the cited art, and in particular to indicate that the openings at the free ends of the hollow domes are disposed in such a way that one of the hollow domes 7 disposed on one of the walls 5, 6 extends between hollow domes 7 disposed on the other wall 6, 5 of the housing, and to indicate that the opening 8 of the one hollow dome 7 is disposed in a space between the hollow domes 7 on the other wall of the housing. Furthermore, claim 1 as amended indicates that in the internal space 9 of the housing 2 of the catalytic converter, the exhaust gas is diverted in the area of the openings at the free ends of the hollow domes to provide a thorough mixing of the exhaust gas. Support for the features of amended claim 1 can be found, for example, on page 2, lines 8 – 17, as well as on page 7, lines 13 – 17. With regard to new claim 17, support therefor can be found on the paragraph on page 7 beginning at line 20.

Thus, among the critical features of amended claim 1 are that the internal space 9 of the housing 2 has wall portions that are provided with a catalytically active surface, and that the exhaust gas is conveyed through openings at the free ends of the hollow domes, wherein such free ends are disposed between hollow domes arranged on the opposite wall so that the exhaust gas flow is diverted in the internal space 9 of the housing in the area of the openings 8. This results in a good thorough mixing of the exhaust gas, and a large contact surface of the exhaust gas with that portion of the housing that has catalytically coated surfaces. Thus, a good catalytic conversion of the exhaust gas is achieved. The hollow domes that extend between one another effects a good and thorough mixing of the exhaust gas with a

straightforward structure and construction of the catalytic converter. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed in particular to Figs. 2 and 3 of the instant application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has rejected, among others, claim 1 as being anticipated by Jourdan. This reference discloses a muffler having a compartment into which cylindrical liners 25 extend. Furthermore, a muffling material is disposed in the compartment. No catalytic coating is provided. In addition, the free ends of the cylindrical liners are closed, in distinct contrast and opposite to the requirement of applicants' amended claim 1. Openings are provided for the cylindrical liners only at the outer periphery thereof, as can be clearly seen in Fig. 3. This is further emphasized by the arrows 33 shown in Fig. 3, which indicate the direction of flow of the gas through the cartridge. Thus, again in contrast to applicants' amended claim 1, the exhaust gas is not diverted, but rather enters at the periphery of a cylindrical liner on one side of the cartridge 23, and again exits the liners at the opposite side of the cartridge. There is no diversion of flow back and forth between the opposite walls within the cartridge, again as required by applicants' amended claim 1.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Jourdan does not disclose an internal space of a housing of a catalytic converter that is at least partially provided with catalytically active material on surfaces of walls of the housing, nor are hollow domes disclosed that have openings at their free ends, i.e. within the internal space; nor does Jourdan disclose an arrangement of the free ends of the hollow domes with openings such that within the housing the exhaust gas stream is diverted in the area of the openings at the free ends of the hollow domes to provide a thorough mixing of

the exhaust gas. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Jourdan is not a proper reference pursuant to either MPEP 2131 or 2143.03 since Jourdan does not teach or suggest all of applicants features and limitations as now defined in amended claim 1.

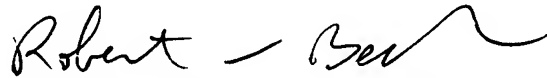
For example, Jourdan provides no teaching or suggestion to dispose openings at the free ends of the hollow domes, instead of only at an inlet periphery, in order to provide a thorough mixing. Rather, in column 5, lines 2 to 5, of Jourdan, it is indicated that due to the flow of the gas as indicated by the arrows 33, there is interior contact between the gas and the material of the cartridge in order to promote the catalytic reaction. As indicated previously, this cartridge material is, for example, a block of rock wool or aluminum fibers, and Jourdan provides no teaching or suggestion to replace such muffling material with a catalytic coating on the walls of the cartridge. Nor does Jourdan teach that in order to achieve an adequate catalytic effect, the openings could be disposed on the free ends of the hollow domes, as required by applicants' claim 1, rather than at the periphery.

With regard to Karlsson, the Examiner's comments that this reference provides hollow domes (32) disposed on oppositely disposed walls is not understood. From Fig. 7 of Karlsson, it can be clearly seen that the profilings 32 are provided exclusively on the part 6. As furthermore stated in column 5, lines 47 to 49, part 6 is substantially profiled, "while part 7 is relatively plane". Thus, Karlsson can in no way teach or suggest applicants' amended claim 1, and certainly cannot suggest the feature that hollow domes disposed on one of the walls extends between hollow domes disposed on the other wall, nor that the opening of the hollow domes on one wall are disposed in a space between hollow domes disposed on the

opposite wall. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claims based on Karlsson be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing discussion, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the allowablility of amended claim 1 as well as the remaining dependent claims. Furthermore, should the Examiner have comments or suggestions, the undersigned would welcome a telephone call in order to address any outstanding issues and to expedite placement of the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Becker", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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